

Joseph Townsend

To

Charles Diefenderffer

Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 1810



Given  
to  
Charles Diefenderffer  
for \$14 50



SOME ACCOUNT

OF

*Mr. Michael Diffenderffer,*

LATE OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE,

DECEASED,

AND THE EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES AT-  
TENDING AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH.

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Drawn up by an intimate acquaintance of the  
deceased, for the satisfaction of his con-  
nections and information of his descend-  
ants.

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1809.



SOME ACCOUNT

OF

*Mr. Michael Diffenderffer,*

Late of the City of Baltimore, &c.

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ON the 9th day of April, 1809, being in his usual good health, he attended the German Reformed Church, of which he was a member, both forenoon and afternoon, when at the close of the latter, standing at the Church door, he asked his friend, Mr. John P. Hartwig, a teacher in their school, (and not long resident in this city,) if he would take a walk with him to a new burying-ground, lately procured for their congregation, at the south-west end of the city, in order to see the several family lots. The proposal was readily complied with. He also took with him their Sexton, to convince him of a mistake made in the place of a late interment.

On their way thither, he appeared chearful and pleasant, discoursing on several subjects; and at different times stopped to speak with his acquaintances as he met with them.

On their arrival at the place he climbed over the fence into the burying-ground, the other two following.—He then took his friend Hartwig by the arm, and shewed him the situations generally. At last, with a smiling countenance, he said, “now I will shew you my family lot.” He accordingly went on the spot, and pointed out to him the corner stones which he had set up, and standing near the centre of the ground said, “here I expect my bones to be laid.”—Mr. Hartwig, discovering two small graves already therein, (being two of his children removed there from an old burying-place,) inquired of him, if there had been two already buried there? but receiving no answer, he turned round towards him and discovered that he was sitting down by him, and when seated, he stretched out his hands and feet, and fell backwards to the ground,

without the least struggle that could be perceived.

Mr. Hartwig, apprehending that he had fainted, raised him up, making what air he well could, to assist in his restoration—but all in vain, for alas! his spirit had fled to another world!

In beholding this awful and solemn scene, Mr. Hartwig experienced the greatest distress imaginable, so as to occasion him to shake like a leaf—to behold his friend, one minute before enjoying every appearance of good health and chearfulness, now a breathless corpse!

The Sexton was immediately sent to inform Mr. Baker, (their Parson) that the melancholy news might be communicated to his dear wife and children: after which Mr. Hartwig had him in his arms for about half an hour, and further endeavors were used for a return of life, but every means proved ineffectual.—The corpse was soon after conveyed in a carriage to his late dwelling, Market Space, to be received by an afflicted family; a shock inexpressible, and more



than human nature could well support.

On the 11th following, about the eleventh hour in the forenoon, his remains were conveyed to be deposited in the silent grave, prepared on the very spot where he drew his last breath; attended by his weeping relatives and a large concourse of his acquaintance and fellow citizens. At the place of interment the Rev. Dr. Baker delivered a pathetic discourse—impressing on the minds of the audience the necessity of a daily preparation to meet their God; as the striking instance of mortality then before them clearly evinced, that they knew not the hour in which they might be summoned to another world.

The funeral discourse was also delivered by him on the Sunday following, from these words, "Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour."—*Isaiah 45th, and 15th verse.*

MICHAEL DIFFENDERFFER, aforesaid, was born on the 29th day of July, 1744, at New Holland, Earl township, near the borough of Lancaster, in the state of Pennsylvania, his parents having emigrated from Germany, and were amongst the first settlers in that county. He served his apprenticeship to a house-joiner, and having married Dorothy, the daughter of Nicholas Job, of the borough aforesaid, he, on the spring following 1774, removed with his family and settled in Baltimore, where he followed his occupation for a time. He afterwards engaged in the mercantile business, in which he continued the remainder of his life. But his mechanical genius and public spirit could not be altogether confined to that employment; he was therefore often engaged in the promotion and carrying into effect a number of public institutions, useful to his fellow citizens and ornamental to the growing city of which he was an inhabitant. And being sen-

sible of the many natural advantages attendant on the place. he was ambitious that they might be improved, so that it might in time become one of the greatest cities in the United States.

From his industry and economy he was favored to procure a handsome estate, to assist in the bringing up of a numerous family committed to his care. In the capacity of a husband and a parent, he was tender and affectionate, and strictly religious in his profession. As a neighbour he was kind and obliging; in his dealings through life, he was honest and upright; to the poor and distressed he manifested a charitable disposition; and to those who merited his confidence he was a sincere friend.

J. T.

FINIS.

## FAMILY RECORD.

*Michael Diffenderffer* was born July 29th, 1744.

*Dorothy Job* was born Sept. 20, 1756.

They were married August 22, 1773, and had the following issue.

*John Diffenderffer* was born January 6th, 1775.

*Eve Diffenderffer* Dec. 8, 1776.

*Frederick Diffenderffer* Nov. 9, 1778.

*Henry Diffenderffer* Nov. 15th, 1780—Died, July 13, 1781.

*Charles Diffenderffer* April 29, 1782.

*Sophia Diffenderffer* Feb. 12, 1784.

*Jacob Diffenderffer* May 24th, 1786—Died, March 7, 1787.



# FAMILY RECORD.

*Eliza Diffenderffer* Jan. 25th,  
1788.

*Michael Diffenderffer* May 11,  
1790.

*Catharine Diffenderffer* July 24,  
1791.

*Daniel Diffenderffer* October 21,  
1792—Died, July 12, 1793.

*Nicholas Diffenderffer* October  
4, 1794—Died, June 18, 1796.

*Juliana Diffenderffer* May 24th,  
1797.

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1858

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